

PATENT
137682 (SPLG 12553-1053)

Remarks

Claims 1-27 are pending in this application. Claims 1-27 are rejected. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims define allowable subject matter.

Claims 1-9 and 21-27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Peterson et al. (U.S. Patent 6,050,645) or alternatively under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious based on Peterson et al. in view of Phelps et al. (U.S. Patent 6,891,311) and further in view of Moore et al. (U.S. Patent 6,511,432). Claims 10-16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peterson et al. in view of Phelps et al. and further in view of Moore et al. Claims 17 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peterson et al. in view of Phelps et al. and further in view of Moore et al. and Larson, III (U.S. Patent 5,229,933). Claims 19 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peterson et al. in view of Phelps et al. and further in view of Moore et al. and Fraser (U.S. Patent 6,375,617). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the reasons set forth below.

Independent claims 1, 10 and 21 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter as discussed with the Examiner on June 11, 2007 and as indicated in the Interview Summary attached to the Advisory Action. Specifically, these claims have been amended to include a decoupling recitation as discussed with the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1, 10 and 17 are now allowable.

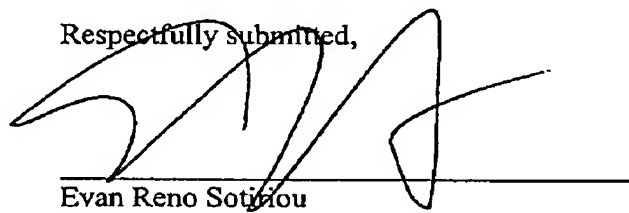
Further, claims 2-9 depend from claim 1, claims 11-20 depend from claim 10 and claims 22-27 depend from claim 21. Applicants submit that these claims are likewise allowable based at least on the dependency of these claims from the independent claims from which these claims depend.

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Applicants have also amended Figure 7 as requested by the Examiner. Upon approval of the revision, Applicants will submit a formalized Figure 7 with the hash marks and dashed box as shown.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the prior art neither anticipates nor renders obvious the claimed invention and the pending claims in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited. Should anything remain in order to place the present application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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IN THE DRAWINGS

Applicants submit herewith a revised Figure 7 that has been revised to reconcile the figure with the specification as requested by the Examiner. Specifically, hash marks and a new dashed box have been added as requested. Figure 7 will be formalized upon approval by the Examiner.